

Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-2201. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil> contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology August 2001

Although precipitation has been below average in all the Great Lakes basins over the past 12 months, all basins except the Lake Erie basin received above-average precipitation during the month of August. Still, the net supply of water was below average to all of the Great Lakes basins in August except for the Lakes Michigan-Huron basin. The table below lists August precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

Compared to their long-term (1918-2000) averages, the August monthly mean levels of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario were 7, 23, 14, 12 and 2 inches, respectively, below average. Boaters should be aware of increased hazards to navigation due to current low water conditions.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	August				12-Month Comparison			
	2001	Average (1900-1996)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-1996)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.35	3.22	0.13	104	28.98	30.41	-1.43	95
Michigan-Huron	3.72	3.10	0.62	120	31.67	32.09	-0.42	99
Erie	2.97	3.17	-0.20	94	32.67	34.99	-2.32	93
Ontario	3.41	3.12	0.29	109	30.03	35.27	-5.24	85
Great Lakes	3.48	3.14	0.34	111	30.85	32.37	-1.52	95

LAKE	August WATER SUPPLIES ² (CFS)		August OUTFLOW ³ (CFS)	
	2001 ¹	Average (1900-1989)	2001 ¹	Average (1900-1989)
Superior	84,000	101,000	78,000	84,000
Michigan-Huron	58,000	55,000	165,000 ⁴	195,000
Erie	-21,000	-12,000	180,000 ⁴	207,000
Ontario	6,000	8,000	230,000	253,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations. CFS denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Estimated.

² Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

³ Does not include diversions.

⁴ Reflects effects of ice/weed retardation in connecting channels.